

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 28, 2008

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND EXTEND
THROUGH FY09 TWO (2) DLNR/UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CONTRACTS: CONTRACT
NO. 47471--HAWAII FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE SYSTEM (\$330,000) AND
CONTRACT NO. 47261--IMPROVEMENT OF BOTTOMFISH STOCKS (\$398,000)

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend and extend two contracts between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawaii (UH) for on-going fisheries projects. The Supplemental Contracts provide additional funding for the projects being conducted by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and the Department of Oceanography and extend the contracts from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The projects described below are for fisheries research activities essential to the management of our fishery resources. Funds for the projects are contained in the Division of Aquatic Resources' FY09 Operating Budget, though adjustments may be made by the 2008 Legislature and/or by administrative allocations/restrictions.

Hawaii Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) System (Contract No. 47471)

Supplemental Contract No. 8 will provide \$330,000 in federal funds for the on-going Hawaii Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) System project conducted by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. The federal funds are provided from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sport Fish Restoration Program. This project maintains/improves the popular statewide FAD system, making it more cost-effective, and supports research activities essential to the management of our fishery resources. The scope of the project will remain the same with FAD fabrication and deployment being continued, as well as the maintenance of the FAD public information system. Ongoing FAD-related research will continue regarding the impact of FADs on Hawaii's pelagic fish resources, especially the influence of FADs on movements and distributions of tuna and marlin in Hawaiian waters. The overall efficacy of the FAD system will continue to be monitored and improved by modifying mooring strategies based on analysis of previous deployment results, thus positive impacts on FAD longevity. The UH will provide a match component of \$110,000.

Improvement of Bottomfish Stocks (Contract No. 55137)

Supplemental Contract No. 2 provides \$398,000 to the UH Department of Oceanography for continuation of the study titled "Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Restricted Fishing Areas (RFAs) for Improving the Bottomfish Fishery." Funds are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program (\$198,000) and LNR 401 State General Fund (\$200,000).

The UH will provide the required federal match component (\$130,000). In FY09, work will concentrate on monitoring bottomfish populations inside and outside select RFAs using BOTCAM drop cameras. Data collected from these surveys and previous surveys will then be processed and analyzed for use in helping the Department evaluate the effectiveness of the State's closed area management plan for this fishery.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorizes the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend two Contracts (Nos. 47471 and 55137) with the University of Hawaii."

Respectfully submitted,



DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson